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CLAIMS:

1.   A computer system for the management of loans
comprising:

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loan definition means for defining a plurality of loans;

means for storing liability values relating to said
respective loans;

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fund definition means for defining a plurality of
different funds;

unit storage means for storing, in relation to each said
15   defined loan, a plurality of numbers each representing a
number of units;

means for linking said numbers of units to selected ones
of said defined funds, said linking means enabling said
20   numbers stored in relation to different loans to be
linked to different combinations of said defined funds;

price storage means for storing prices of said units in
relation to said defined funds;

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transaction means operable to utilise said unit prices in performing, in relation to said loans, first transactions in which monetary values are converted to numbers of units and applied to said unit storage means, and second

5   transactions in which numbers of units stored in said unit storage means are converted to monetary values.

2.   A system according to claim 1, comprising at least one control data storage means adapted to store a

10   plurality of different values of control data for controlling said transactions, and means for linking said different values of said control data to respective different ones of said defined loans, said transaction means being operable to perform transactions in relation

15   to said loans utilising the values of said control data linked thereto, so that a transaction may be performed differently, according to the values of the control data, when performed on different loans.

20   3.   A system according to claim 2, wherein said, or one of said, control data storage means is adapted for storing transaction control data which controls distribution of a monetary value between an amount to be credited against said liabilities and an amount to be

25   utilised in a said first transaction.

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4. A system according to claim 2, in which said, or one of said, control data storage means is adapted for storing transaction control data which controls distribution of a monetary value for conversion to numbers of units relating to different ones of said funds identified by said control data.

5. A system according to claim 2, in which said, or one of said, control data storage means is adapted for storing transaction control data controlling the selection of interest rates to be applied in relation to said loans.

6. A system according to claim 2, in which said, or one of said, control data storage means is adapted for storing transaction control data controlling the selection of penalty interest rates to be applied in relation to said loans.

7. A system according to claim 2, in which said, or one of said, control data storage means is adapted for storing transaction control data for controlling a transaction in which, in response to a predetermined condition, at least some units in an existing distribution thereof in relation to said funds are

converted at least partly to a monetary value.

8. A system according to claim 7, in which said control data storage means is adapted for storing data for controlling a reconversion of at least part of said monetary value to units to create a new distribution of units in relation to defined

9. A system according to claim 2, in which said, or one of said, control data storage means is adapted to store transaction control data for controlling a process which determines whether or not a current value for regular payments to pay off the loan meets predetermined criteria relating to said funds and said liabilities.

10. A system according to claim 2, in which said, or one of said, control data storage means is adapted to store transaction control data which controls distribution of bonus payments or costs as between liabilities and said units.

11. A system according to claim 2, in which said, or one of said, control data storage means is adapted for storing transaction control data controlling computation of the cost of redeeming said loan at different points in

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the period of the loan.

12. A system according to any of claims 3 to 10, wherein
said control data comprises time control data defining

5   the time at which, following a predetermined date
relating to a new loan, the values of the transaction
control data therein should become effective.

13. A system according to claim 11, wherein said control

10   data storage means is adapted to store a plurality of
different values for said time control data and a
plurality of different values for said transaction
control data so that different values of said transaction
control data may be made effective at different times

15   following said predetermined date.

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15. A system according to any of claims 2 to 12, wherein
the or each said control data storage means is adapted to
store validity control data defining a date after which

20   the transaction control data stored therein may be linked
to loans set up thereafter.

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16. A system according to any of claims 2 to 15,
comprising product definition means for predefining a

25   plurality of different predefined products having

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different values of the control data.

16.   A system according to claim 15, in which said
product definition means comprises means for pre-defining
in relation to each product one or more processes to be
performed in accordance with a schedule.

17. A system according to any preceding claim comprising
schedule means for defining the performance, by said
transaction means, of predetermined transactions in
accordance with a predetermined schedule and means for
linking respective schedules to respective different ones
of said defined loans.

18. A system according to any preceding claim, including
means for instructing, by user command, a processing
operation involving a said first transaction, said
instructing means including means for specifying values
of control data which controls the distribution of the
monetary value between different said funds.

19. A system according to any preceding claim, including
means for instructing, by user command, a processing
operation involving a said second transaction, said
instructing means including means for specifying values

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of control data which controls the distribution of the monetary value between different said funds.

20. A system according to any preceding claim, including means for instructing, by user command, a processing operation which comprises at least one of said first transactions and at least one of said second transactions, said instruction means permitting values for control data to be specified which controls the monetary distribution in each of said transactions.

21. A system according to any preceding claim, comprising a transaction database for storing data relating to each individual said transaction performed by the system, said transaction data including the number of fund units transacted, the identity of the fund to which they relate and the identity of the loan to which they relate.

22. A system according to claim 19, comprising processing means for computing the current value of units linked to respective said loans by summing the number of units in the transaction database which relate to the same loan and the same fund and calculating their current value utilising the current price thereof stored in said

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price storage means.

23.   A system according to any preceding claim, comprising means for storing, in relation to each said

5   loan, the current total of units linked to each respective said fund.

24.   A system according to any preceding claim, comprising means defining a process for computing in

10   relation to each said loan, the current value of the liabilities and the current total value of the units linked to the respective loan.

25.   A system according to claim 24, wherein said

15   computing process is operable to compute the balance of the current value of liabilities and the current total value of the units linked to the loan.

26 A system according to any of claims 2 to 15, or any of

20   claims 16 to 25 as dependent upon any of claims 2 to 15,, wherein said control data storage means is adapted for storing control data defining distributions in transactions involving units, on the basis of monetary value of said units and on the basis of the number of

25   units.

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27. A system according to a new claims to 2 to 15, any
of claims 16 to 25 as dependent upon any of claims to 2
to 15, or according to claim 26, wherein said control
data storage means is adapted for storing control data
5   for assigning priorities to respective different funds in
relation to transactions involving units in a plurality
of funds.

28.   A computer system for the management of loans
10   comprising:
means for defining a plurality of loans;
means for defining a plurality of funds;
means for storing a plurality of numbers;
means for linking each of said numbers to both a selected
15   one of said defined loans and a selected one of said.
defined funds;
means for storing unit values relating respectively to
said funds;
means for recording monetary values relating to said
20   respective defined loans;
means for converting said monetary values to fund units
utilising said stored fund unit value;

means for converting the total number of units linked to
25   the same loan and the same fund to a monetary value which

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may be offset against the loan.

29.   A computer system for the management of loans
comprising:

5   means for defining a plurality of loans;

means for recording monetary values relating to said
respective defined loans;

means for defining a plurality of funds;

means for converting said monetary values to numbers,

10   representing respectively numbers of fund units,
utilising said stored fund unit value;

means for linking each of said numbers to said at least
one fund and to both the corresponding defined loan and
the corresponding defined fund;

15   means for converting the total number of units linked to
the same loan and the same fund to a monetary value which
may be offset against the loan.

30.   Computer system for the management of loans

20   comprising:

asset definition means for defining at least one fund and
for storing in relation thereto a fund unit value;

loan definition means for defining a plurality of loans,
said loan definition means comprising:

25   liability storage means for storing liability

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values representing the outstanding amount of the
loan and outstanding interest,

asset storage means for storing assets in the form
of units relating to each of at least one fund; and

5   monetary value recording means for recording
relating to transactions in respect of said loan;
transaction means for performing transactions in relation
to said loans, said transaction means comprising:

means for converting said monetary values relating

10   to transactions into numbers of fund units
utilising said fund unit value; and
means for storing said number of units calculated
by said conversion means in said asset storage
means of said corresponding loan;

15   means for converting, in relation to each respective
defined loan, the total number of units stored in the
asset storage means thereof to a monetary value to
provide a monetary value for said assets.

20   31.   A computer system for financial management
comprising:
asset definition means which comprises,

fund definition means for defining a plurality of
different funds representing assets, and

25   fund unit price definition means for storing a fund

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unit price in relation to each said defined fund
loan definition means for defining a plurality of loans,
said loan definition means comprising,

liability storage means for storing liability

5   values representing the outstanding amount of the
loan and outstanding interest,
a plurality of fund unit storage means each for
storing a number representing a number of fund
units; and

10   monetary value recording means for recording
monetary values relating to transactions in respect
of said loan;

selection means operable for linking selected ones of
said fund unit storage means to selected ones of said

15   defined funds such that the fund unit storage means of
different loans may be linked to different combinations
of said funds;

transaction means for performing transactions in relation
to said loans, said transaction means comprising:

20   means for converting said monetary values relating
to transactions into numbers of fund units
utilising said fund unit value; and

means for storing said number of units calculated

25   by said conversion means in said fund unit storage

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means of said corresponding loan;

means for converting, in relation to each respective
defined loan, the total number of units stored in each
respective one of said fund unit storage means thereof to

5   a monetary value utilising the current unit price of said
fund.

32.   A loan management system substantially is herein
described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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33.   A system according to any preceding claim arranged
for managing mortgages.

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34. A method of lending money which comprises recording
liabilities relating to capital and interest, recording
at least one asset having a value which increases and
decreases in value as a function of a selected index,
5   and, at least on one occasion, offsetting the value of
the asset against the value of the liabilities.

35. A method according to claim 34, which comprises
recording a plurality of said assets each having a value
10   which increases and decreases as a function of a
respective different selected index, and wherein, on said
at least one occasion, the total value of said assets is
offset against the value of the liabilities.

15   36. A method according to claim 34 or 35,which comprises
performing said method in relation to a plurality of
different loans and a plurality of different said assets,
with different set assets being related to different said
loans.

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